

# Wayne Allard

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CONTACT: Angela de Rocha at (202) 224-5944  
July 28, 2005

## **SENATOR ALLARD TO LEAD COLORADO DELEGATION SET TO DEFEND DFAS FACILITY IN DENVER BEFORE BRAC COMMISSIONERS**

WASHINGTON, D.C. – U.S. Senator Wayne Allard (R-Colorado) said Thursday he will be leading the Colorado congressional delegation to defend the Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) facility in Denver at a hearing of the Base Realignment and Closure Commission (BRAC).

The hearing is scheduled for August 8 in Monterey, California. The BRAC Commission asked Senator Allard, as Colorado's senior senator, to take the lead in developing the agenda for the Colorado response to this challenge.

The purpose of the hearing is to examine the merits of closing or realigning the Denver DFAS facility and to allow the affected local communities to present their arguments in defense of maintaining the facility.

Senator Allard has invited Colorado Governor Bill Owens and the mayors of Denver and Aurora, as well as the entire Colorado congressional delegation, to attend the BRAC hearing with him.

"This is a bipartisan effort to show not only should the Denver facility not be closed, but that it should be expanded," Senator Allard said. "The Denver DFAS facility is a center for accounting excellence, so an excellent case can be made for retaining it at the end of the BRAC process."

"An earlier assessment put the Denver facility in the top tier of DFAS operations centers. It would be more cost effective, and better policy, for the Department of Defense (DoD) to consider expanding its operations at DFAS Denver, rather than cutting back," Senator Allard said.

DFAS Denver, housed in the 600,000-square-foot Buckley Air Force Base Annex on the former Lowry Air Force Base, also meets the Department of Defense's (DoD) objective of fully utilizing the department's owned property. Currently, the Annex is not fully occupied, with approximately 30,000 to 40,000 square feet sitting vacant. Even more space will become available when the Air Force Reserve Personnel Center, which also is currently located at the Buckley Annex, realigns to Randolph Air Force Base in Texas as part of the Department of Defense's 2005 BRAC recommendations.

On July 19, the BRAC voted to add the Denver DFAS facility, located on the grounds of the former Lowry Air Force Base, to the 2005 list of installations to be considered for closure or realignment. A final vote on the list will come in late August.